Mocetpta Under the Indirect Tax Lows at Largety Increased that Direct Taxation May Soon Be Dispensed With As Patimated Surplus of More than \$5,000,000 for the Current Frent Year-Great Inerrase in the State Porest Preserve-The Question of the Consolidation of New York and Brooklya Should He submitted to Vote-Prosperous Senson for the Canals -U.s of El-cirioty as a Marire Power.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, | ALBANY, Jan. 2, 1804.

years the Executive is able to announce to the Legislature that the State is entirely free from debt. The last restige of debt was paid during the year just closed in the redemption of the outstanding Ningara Reservation indebt-

This result is not the only indication of the satisfactory condition of our State finances. Owing to the very thorough and successful administration of the indirect tax laws the recelpts from these sources have been largely increased, and with a continuance of these fawhen, for the general purposes of government,

was m le up of ninety-eight hundredths of a mill for school purposes, thirty-three and onethird hundredths of a mill for the support of the inenne, thirty-seven and two-thirde hundredths of a mill for canals, and the remainder, eighty-nine, bundredths of a mill for general purposes. That hax rate was fixed upon the supposition that the actual survive in the Treasury to the credit of the general fund on Sept. 30, 1823, would be \$505.18t, excluding the \$500.000 reserve. As a matter of fact, the surpins on Sept. 30, last, was \$2,000,192. Assuming a continuance of recent administrative diligence, the Comptroller estimates that the actual aurplus on Sept. 30 next, or the end of the current fixed year, will be \$3,000,177. If in fixing the tax rate for the present year this amount third hundredths of a mill for the support of

surplus on Sept. 30 next, or the end of the curgent fiscal year, will be \$1.031.17. If in fixing
the tax rate for the present year the amount
of surplus on hand could have been assumed,
the tax rate for this year, would have been
twenty-seven hundredths of a mill for general
purposes instead of eightly-nine hundredths of
a mill, or a total tax rate of one and ninetysix hundredths mills.

The present legislature can, therefore, look
forward to fixing an even lower tax rate. No
only will it have this large surplus at the end
of the current fiscal year to reduce taxation
with, but if the administration of the indirect
tax laws continues to be thorough and vigoroua, there will be greatly increased receipts
from these sources. Moreover, there is occasion for no extraordinary appropriations, such
as were necessary during the past year, as,
for instance, that for the purchase of Fira
Jeiand, that for the Buffile strike, that for the
threatened it asion of cholera, that for the
world's Fair, at that to pay the balance of
the State debt.

Taking these facts into consideration, it is
aste to predict that, with reasonable economy
at the present session, and without parsimony
the Legislature can make unnecessary any
direct tax whatever, except for schools and the
finance, and possibily the canais. This will be
gratifying news to the tax payers of the State,
and it should be the aim of the Legislature to

Incane, and possibly the canals. This will be gratifying news to the taxpayers of the State, and it should be the aim of the Legislature to bring about such a result. Certainly the people have reason to rejoice that their finances have been managed so successfully in the past, and they will expect the same carnost regard for economy from their lawmakers and administrative officers in the future.

Let us not disappoint them.

The year just ended has marked the beginping of a new era in the State in the matter of
forest preservation. A new policy has been
established, whose good results are already
far beyond expectation. It gives me particular pleasure to announce this fact and to congratulate the Legislature that this State undertaking is at last on a business-like and intelligent foundation.

A rear ago I recommended the creation of a
new Forest Commission. I made two price.

IT.4913 acres of State land, from which it is expected that the first year's cutting will visid to be State and, from which it is expected that the first year's cutting will visid to be State and revenue of SOL488. These imput results are exceedingly gratifying, thus appears that the State Forest reserve has been increased by probably a million dollars worth of lands without any direct appropriation of public money, and that the first year of intelligent administration under the new law has insured to the State an annual revenue largely in excess of the entire cost of maintaining the Forestry Bureau. Every lover of the Adirondacks and every friend of forest preservation will rejoice at these results, but they will be particularly satisfactory to the taxpayers of the State. If from so small a portion of the forest preserve so considerable a revenue la received without injury to the forest, we can reasonably look forward to the time when the forest preserve will not only be the great conservator of our watercourses and the restorer of health, but will contribute a large part of the money required for the support of the State Government.

All sales of stumpage were to the highest

but will contribute a large part of the money required for the support of the State Government.

All sales of stumpage were to the highest bidder. Applications for sales were aumerous, and covered more timber than the Forest Commission thought wise to self at that time. They indivate that there will be no difficulty in obtaining an annual revenue which shall not only render the department self-sustaining, but will leave a large uslance, which, for the immediate future, can be applied annually on the purchase of lands and the enlargement of the preserve.

The legislative policy declared two years ago of selling scattered and detached tracts of State forest land lying outside the limits of the Adjrondack Park has been pursued during the year, but not many sales have been made, owing to the depression in financial ercles.

There has been a notable absence of forest

There has been a notable absence of forest free, although neighboring States have suf-fered considerably in this respect. This ab-sence is in large part attributable to the effi-ciency of the town firs wardens and to the efforts of the Forest Commission through its officers.

officers.
The threatened less to the State of hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land by cancellations of tax sales was happily averted by egislation last year passed in response to my salest solicitation. The law governing these cancellations atili needs attempthening in some assects, and your attention is respectfully directed to the subject.

MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION.

MUNICIPAL CONSOCLIDATION.

There seems to be considerable public sentiment in favor of a consoldrable public sentiment in favor of a consoldrable number one punicipal Government of the cities of New York and Brooklyn and contiguous territory. Many advantages of such a consolidation to the people of the localities have reon urged, and a commission which was established by direction of the logislature for the purpose of inquiring into the natter has declared in favor of consolidation. Of course no legislatus measure providing for consolidation should be enacted inhese it is clearly the wish of the general of the cities and towns affected that consolidation should take place. The color sura method of determining that sen intent is by submitting the question to a popular vote. This course I recommend to the Legislature.

The last season of canal navigation was an unusually prospectous one. The total tournage carried on all the canali was 4.511 let it with

4,031,003 The amount of freight carried by the various Canals was as folions:

Pris fant 2.20.121
Champan fanal 3.00.121

Frie Canal 2.205.124
Champanis Canal 2.205.124
Champanis Canal 2.205.124
Canal 2.205.2
Each diver Canal 1.15.717
Cay was and beneze Canal 3.205.2
During the season of canal navigation the whole cumber of oushels of grain received at the port of New York was 1000.201, 700, of which the canals carried 4.0.075.100, or slightly over Use 2.205.2 per cent. In 1882, while the total receipts

at New York Suring the canal season were greater lian those for 1803, the proportion carried by the cannie was work? 21 por cent. or 1604 per cent. less. The Increase in favor of the season just chosed was because of higher falle one to load owners.

The cost of auperintendence, ordinary repairs, and meintenance of the cansis during the last fiscal year was \$723,091.47. This is the lowest expenditure for these purposes in soven years. In addition the last Legislature appropriated \$761,000 for improvements. These are now under way and will increase the efficiency of the canals. They consist in continuing the policy of lock-longitening, under what is known as the Sermour plan, deepening the Champian Canal, boffeming out the Eric Canal, improving the Eric Insulance pening the Champian Canal, boffeming out the Eric Canal, improving the Eric Insulance of Buffalo, repairing the upper and lower Mohavk aquedures and the Schocharic Creek aqueduct, raculiding the State dam at Cohoem, improving canal walls and bridges, i.e. More appropriations of this kind will be required this year, and the setulated to the Legislature by the proper officers.

ing them will be autimitted to the Legislature by the proper efficers.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE USEFULNESS OF THE CANALS.

I have alluded in other official capers to the necessity for maintaining the efficiency of the canal system and extending its usefulness wherever practicable. The Eric Canal was built three-quarters of a century age to divert the flood of agricultural wealth of the West from outlets to the sea by way of Canada or the Mississippi lilver. That policy poured the resames of the new country at the feet of New York and built up her great cities. As much now as ever before in her history does the State of New York need the maintenance of substantial waterways. No narrow or shorting the policy should remit this tide of commerce between West and Fast to be turned away from New York. To-day Canada aspires to contest with us for the traffic of the great lakes. She has airready spent unward of \$50,000,000 in improving and building canals and in deepening channels. She is constructing a new canal through her territory at the Fault Ste. Marke, and in making a channel fourteen feet deep all the way from Lake Superior through the Welland Canal and St. Lawrence River to the sea. When that is completed a 2,000-ton boat can go from Industr to Montreal, Hallfax, or Liverpool. To meet this competition the United States Government is making a 20-foot channel through the lakes to Buffalo. When that is completed a 3,000-ton boat can come as far as Buffalo, and from that point freight must find a cheap and easy outlet to the seaboard. Here is where New lork's interest lies, and where the necessity of utilizing the advantage of the Eric Canal is vital.

Think for a moment of the vast wealth centred now in the territory surrounding the great lakes. Here in these States is aircady nearly half the population of this region must vital and commercial possibilities are almost unimited. The great wheat fleids of the world are there, great areas of timbered land, immense deposits of the Last. Ralironds alone cannot ca SUGGESTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE USEFULNESS OF THE CANALS.

canals has diminished instead of increasing. The lengthening of the remaining four locks will not change the situation materially, for it requires on the average arout three minutes to lock a host, so that the time saved retween Buffslo and Albany by lengthening the remaining locks would be less than half an hour.

Another plan proposed in connection with the lengthening of the locks is the deepening of the canal and the raising of its hanks, so as to enable beats of larger capacity to be used. The deepening of the canal would necessitate the rebuilding of all its structures—an enormously expensive undertaking; the raising of the banks, however, would be quite feasible of the banks, however, would be quite feasible

vision should be made for the prompt removal or all accommissions in the observation of the control of the cont The state of the s

audit by the Commission in Lumacy, and provision for this was made in the law. It followed in repeal outline the recommendation of Comptreller theat and the Senate committee anove aligned to although not going quite so far, and was analogous to the system which has been in vogue in the prison department for many years and has there yielded excellent results.

The system as carried out provides that the officers of each that expend in minute detail of all the expenses of the institution. These estimates are revised by the Commission as to quantities and prices and are then forwarded to the Comptreller, who thereupon results to the Treasurer of the hospital the amount of the estimates as revised, less the amount of the estimates as revised, less the amount of lunds which the hospital has on hand. Each month's expenditures are required to be reported in minute detail by the hospital Treasurer, and are examined and compared with the estimates for that month to ascertain if the expenditures correspond in all respects with the estimates as allowed. An allowance of not exceeding \$1,000 is permitted by law in the discretion of the State Commission, for unforessen expenses. No supplies are authorized to be purchased by the State Commission, nor are directions required to be given as to where supplies should be bought. These are matters left under the law would permit no interference in this direction except by refusal to accept estimates which are in excess of fair market prices, or supplies which are left with its business tike in

recognition, and the matter is respectfully re-ferred to your consideration. My attention has also been officially called to the Antwerp International Exposition, which is to be held at Antwerp between May and No-vember, this year. I am informed that the United States are to have a Separate exhibition building, in which spaces will be reserved for individual State exhibits. The question is re-spectfully submitted whether such representa-tion on behalf of this State shall be authorized.

giving the Commissioner authority to appoint in his discretion a larger number of men to this service.

The growing importance of the agricultural interests of the State and the spiendid record which they made in the exhibits at the World's Fair suggest the propriety of a new holiday, to be known as Harvest Day, a day set apart for stimulating interest in agricultural matters and enjoying the senson of harvest. Such a holiday might be of decided benefit to farmers and others if proper provision for its observance each year should be made under the direction of the Commissioner of Agriculture, in connection with the State fair at Syracuse. This fair is now established in a permanent home, some of the buildings have been built with State money, and it has been the policy of the State to foster it by appropriations of money for premiums and other purposes. It is more distinctively a State fair than other large fairs for which the Legislature has recently appropriated public money. The State Agricultural Society, under whose auspices it is managed, would undoutedly be willing to arrange the time of its holding so as to include this proposed public holiday, and any appropriations of money to the fair could include provision for its observance in such way as to be of greatest benefit to the farming interests. Busmit this suggestion for your caroful consideration.

THE STATE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY.

s determined whether tho
five the exposition official
e matter is respectfully rederation,
diso been officially called to
astional Exposition, which
verp between May and NoI am informed that tha
have a separate exhibition
paces will be reserved for
inplies. The question is retwhether such representas State shall be authorized.
URAL INTERESTS.
uggestion contained in my
e Legislature last year eabepartment of Agriculture,
at action has been already
in connection, with the
with respectation is retaining and marking the positions occupied
by each New York regiment, battery, or independent organization participating in the
battle of Chickamauga or Charitaneoga. The
pendent organization participating in the
battle of Chickamauga or Charitaneoga. The
pendent organization is needed if any,
I thoroughly sympathize with these efforts to
memorate the sacrifices of our country's
defenders, and I trust that the State of New
will not be backward in doing its full
share in this good work.

BEFORMATORY MANAGEMENT.

On account of the many mer out of employ-

provision should be made for its completion. The results will be of particular interest in the complete information they will furnish of the occupations of the people.

THE FUBLIC HEALTH.

The aprend of cholera in western Europe hat spring called for extra work on the part of the state Board of Health to prepare for the reception of the disease should invasion take place. Iscal Boards of Health throughout the State were required to report upon the sanitary conditions of their municipalities and as to Local Boards of Health throughout the State were required to report upon the sanitary conditions of their municipalities and as to what arrangements had been made to eare for cases of cholera if any came. In order to assure active and efficient work, six inspectors were appointed by the Frate Board to visit in places of entry into the State, and such other places as would be exposed, reporting the needs for further sanitation, erection of hospitals, disinfecting stations, or such like matters of importance to the public health. The wisdom of this work has been well shown in greater energy on the rart of local health. The wisdom of this work has been well shown in greater energy on the rart of local health authorities, and while it is a source of congratulation that choicra did not reach this slide of the Atlantic, had it done so the readiness in which the most expected places were put was an assurance that an extended epidemic would have been prevented.

The precaptions at the Quarantine Station in New York harbor were equally vigilant and thorough.

The precautions at the Quarantine Station in New York harbor were equally vigilant and thorough.

The examination of cattle for tuberculosis has been stendily pushed. In all since Jan, 1838, 16001 head have been examined, and 013 killed to prevent the spread of the disease. Microscopical and bacteriological examinations have been made of milk and specimens taken post mortens, showing the presence of the tuberculosis germ in all. Care is exercised in examinations and careful records are kept. The result whithe, if work in this direction is continued, to improve the cartie in the State, enhance the dairy interest, and add a further protection to the public health by removing this source of disease germs.

COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATION.

The number of children attending the com-

THE STATE PRISONS.

THE STATE PRISONS.

The number of convicts in the three State prisons on Sept. 30, 1818, was 3,491, being 104 less than on the same date of the previous year, and the lowest since 1889. The average cost for care and maintennace for the flaval rear was \$137.04 for each convict.

The financial results of the industries in the State prisons were not as satisfactory as usual. This was owing to the decreasion in business, which affected the sale of articles manufactured, to the recent logislative restrictions as to the kinds of industries which should be permitted, and to the employment of some of the convicts in road building and in the construction of new workshops and other prison buildings. The main object is, of course, to keep the convicts at work, and at the same time not to permit their labor to compete with that of free men. There were but 1,300 convicts employed in productive industries on Sept. 30, 1838, compared with 2,102 on the same day in 1832. This failing off could not but affect the prison receipts from industries. At the same time it is gratifying to know that the employment of convict labor in building workshops at Clinton and Auburn prisons has given excellent results in construction and has savelithe State about \$40,000. I suggest the propriety of incorporating in all legislative bills making appropriations for the reconstruction or improvement of prison buildings a provision that so far as possible the work shall be done by convict labor.

escapes of convicts, of whom one was recaptured.

INDETERMINATE SENTENCES AT THE ELMISA BEFORMATORY.

The transfer of prisoners from the Elmira
Reiormatory to the State prisons is a subject
deserving careful consideration. The statute
authorizes the managers of the reformatory
to transfer temporarily, with the written consent of the Superintendent of Prisons, to either
of the State prisons, any prisoner shown to
have been at the time of his conviction
more than thirty years of age, or to have been
previously convicted of crime, and also any
apparently incorrigible prisoner whose presence in the reformatory appears to be seriously
detrimental to the well being of that institution. The managers may also require the return to the reformatory of any person so transferred. Acting under this authority, the
managers have from time to time transferred
prisoners in much greater numbers than I
think could have been contemplated when the
law was enacted; and the transferred on the
pear to be made temporarily, but finally, and
with the intent that the remaining portion of
the terms of those transferred shall be served
in the prison.

From reports made to me by the wardens it
appears that between Dec. 20, 1830, and July
19, 1833, 1500 prisoners were transferred from
the Elmira heformatory to Clinton Prison;

called to the matter.

FISH PROPAGATION.

The Legislature of 1893 passed bills providing for two new fish hatcheries, one is sufficient to two new fish hatcheries, one is sufficient to the sufficient to the propagator of the hatcheries was made conditional upon the decision of the Commissioners of Fisheries that the places named were properly located for the propagation of fish. This condition was inserted in the measures and the Commissioners have decided that cernia kinds of fish, chiefly trout, could be successfully propagated in the waters of ply of which greater benefit will accre
people of the State. As I said in my la
message, merely to conserve sports
terests would not justify large approof fish cultivation from the public.
The measure of opportunity is mu
than is prescribed by any such
field. There are 1,500 square
water within the area of our State, or
producing an unlimited supply of fithus cheapening in large degree th
living to the people, creating additployment, and adding to the State's
Every stream might be made to yield it
the food supply of the farms through
runs, and every lake might give near
lihood to more men and furnish cheahie foot to more families. Liberal at
Lake Ontario with whitefish, pike,
trout, assisted by proper regulat

The necessity of a military force is recom-nized by the laws of the State. Its value de-pends entirely upon its efficiency. A high standard of discipline and instruction has been prescribed and for the most part maintained, and while constant efforts are made to ad-vance this standard, it may be said that both these extablishments are it an aminantic aning care of the people. The Naval Militia is already well equipped. Under recent appropriations the National Guard will soon be thoroughly equipped for any service it may be called upon to perform.